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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Aaron T. Jones

DOCKET NO.: 112300-030

APPLICATION NO. 09/680,349

EXAMINER: Corbutt B. Coburn

FILED: October 5, 2000

ART UNIT: 3714

INVENTION: GAMING DEVICE PROVIDING TOUCH ACTIVATED SYMBOL INFORMATION

Commissioner for Patents Washington, DC 20231

SUPPLEMENTAL DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 OF AARON JONES

Sir:

I. Aaron Jones, hereby state as follows:

- I am currently employed as a Firmware Engineer Supervisor at IGT. 1. My employment at IGT began in June, 1992. I am familiar with wagering gaming machines, the gaming machine industry, and the history of gaming machines.
- I have reviewed the outstanding Office Action dated March 26, 2. 2003 pending in the above-identified application and the pending claims. I submit this declaration in response to the Examiner's obviousness rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) of Claims 1-8 and 11-48 of the above-identified application.
- The present claimed invention of the above-enumerated claims 3. provides a gaming device enabling display of paytable information that a player of the gaming device wants rather than requiring a player to scroll through pages of information. More particularly, the present claimed invention allows the player to select a symbol of a reel and immediately see the winning combination(s) (i.e., paytable information) associated with that symbol and the awards associated with those combinations including that symbol.



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- 4. From 1975, when video slot machines were first introduced, until the present claimed invention, a need existed in the slot machine industry to simplify the display of complicated paytables, and particularly paytable information concerning specific symbols displayed on the reels.
- 5. Accordingly, this need for simplification and convenience existed for over twenty-five years.
- To my knowledge, various gaming device manufacturers have 6. previously attempted to develop gaming devices having features for simplifying and enabling a player to sort through unwanted paytable symbols and combinations or to determine and understand winning symbol combinations. Examples of such features have included: (1) the addition of the "previous" button (in addition to the "next" button) in the multiple paytable screens to enable a player to look at the previous screen (in addition to looking at the next screen) which enables the player to more easily navigate the numerous paytable screens; (2) the highlighting of winning symbol combinations in a paytable after a win such as in video draw poker games where the paytable is displayed on the screen and the relevant win in the paytable is highlighted; (3) the boxing of the symbols (on the video display) which are part of the winning symbol combinations along the payline; and (4) the clear aligned arrangement of the display of the groups of winning symbol combinations for each symbol which is part of a winning combination in each page of the paytable as illustrated in the examples attached to my previous declaration.
- 7. To my knowledge, no gaming device manufacturers offered any innovations for video slot machines during the time period discussed above that

featured the ability to select paytable information concerning one of the symbols of a reel in video slot machines by selecting that symbol.

- 8. To my knowledge, no gaming device existed prior to the present claimed invention that included selection of a symbol displayed on a displayed reel and display of paytable information concerning the selected symbol as featured in the claims of the present application.
- 9. Accordingly, I believe there was a long-felt but unmet need for the present invention of the above-enumerated claims.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made upon information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under § 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the patent.

Executed this 23 day of May 2003.

Aaron Jones